Remarks

The Advisory Action suggested that there may be 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues with regard to enablement and clarity of the amendment to the claims. With regard to enablement, the applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the Examples, which demonstrate that a greater immunogenic response is observed in mice 21 days after prime injection of trehalose-containing compositions that had been stored for 6 months compared to similar compositions not containing trehalose.

With regard to clarity, the applicants respectfully submit that the language added to the claims clearly indicates that as time passes the immunogenicity of the protein-linked polysaccharide (i.e., the ability of the protein-linked polysaccharide to induce a specific immune response) in a composition is greater when trehalose has been incorporated into the composition compared to the same composition that lacks trehalose. The applicants have further amended claim 1 to clarify this point.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 112, § 102, and § 103 rejections. If there are any questions or comments regarding this response or application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney as indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 4, 2004

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